

Amendments to the Specification

The paragraph on page 2, line 25:

The above and other problems are solved in accordance with the present invention in accordance with which a method and apparatus is provided for guiding and aligning circuit board assemblies ~~for~~ with mating with sockets mounted on a backplane of an electronic system. The apparatus embodying the present invention eliminates the horizontal shelves of the prior art arrangements. The elimination of the horizontal shelves is advantageous in that it overcomes the limitation that the circuit board assemblies must be grouped by sizes and inserted between pairs of shelves having the vertical spacing required to accommodate each different size.

The paragraph on page 2, line 33:

In accordance with the method and apparatus of the present invention, the sockets into which sockets of circuit board assemblies are inserted are mounted in a pattern of horizontal rows and vertical columns on the backplane. A vertically oriented guide plate is positioned between ~~a column~~ columns of sockets. Each vertical guide plate has horizontal guide slots that receive guide posts affixed to the vertical sides of a circuit board assembly. A circuit board assembly is supported by a guide plate by the steps of inserting guide posts on the circuit board assembly into a horizontal guide slot and by pushing the circuit board assembly inwardly toward the backplane until a plug at the rear of the circuit board assembly is proximate the backplane socket into which it is to be engaged. The rear surface of the plug has pins adapted to be inserted into corresponding openings in the sockets. The plug has ribs on each side which are adapted to mate with matching slots in the vertical sides of the socket that receives the plug.

The paragraph on page 5, line 13:

FIG. 1 discloses a first possible exemplary embodiment of the invention. A plurality of sockets 102 are arranged in a row and column alignment on backplane 101. Also affixed to backplane 101 is a guide plate 103 which is vertically aligned with

respect to the left-most column of sockets 102. Guide plate 103 is affixed to backplane 101 by tabs 108. Guide plate 103 has a plurality of horizontal guide slots 104 each of which is unique to a different socket 102. Circuit board assembly 110 has a front surface 115, a plurality of openings 112 ~~and on~~ an upper surface 113, a pull knob 116 and RJ45 jacks 117. The rear of the circuit board assembly 110 includes a plug 111 having a rear portion (not shown) that includes pins which are adapted for engagement with corresponding openings in the socket 102 into which plug 111 and its pins are to be inserted.

The paragraph on page 5, line 28:

The view of FIG. 2 is similar to that of FIG. 1 except that the circuit board assembly 110 is further inserted into its guide slot 104. On FIG. 2, both guide posts 114 are shown engaged with a guide slot 104. The view of FIG. 3 is similar to that of FIG. 2 except that the circuit board assembly 110 is further inserted into its guide slot 104 so that its rear guide post 114 is proximate hole 105 at the rear extremity of guide slot 104. Also, on FIG. 3, ribs 109 of plug 111 are proximate the walls of the socket 102 into which they are to be inserted. The view of FIG. 4 is similar to that of FIG. 3 except that the plug 111 is fully inserted into its socket 102. FIG. 3 and 4 show ~~groove 105 slots~~ 121 in the left wall of socket 102.